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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Yasuyuki KAMIJO et al. : Art Unit: 1731
Serial No.: 10/730,006 : Examiner: A. Kinney
Filed: December 9, 2003 :
For: PROCESS FOR IMPREGNATING, REFINING, :
AND BLEACHING WOOD CHIPS HAVING :
LOW BLEACHABILITY TO PREPARE :
MECHANICAL PULPS HAVING HIGH :
BRIGHTNESS (As Amended) :

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the April 5, 2006 Office Action, Applicants request reconsideration in view of the following remarks:

Rejection of Claims 1 and 2 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over newly-cited U.S. Patent No. 4,486,267 to Prusas (hereinafter "Prusas").

The present invention, as recited in the process of claim 1, involves the pretreatment of wood chips for preparing chemical pulp. The wood chips are compressed and dipped in a chemical liquor comprising a chelating agent and having a pH of 7 to 12 while in the compressed state or after compression of the chips. Pressure is then released to impregnate the chips with the chemical liquor, and thereafter the wood chips are further compressed to